

**REMARKS**

In the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to be in product-by- process form. Claims 1 and 3-7 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-18 will be pending, of which claims 8-18 are withdrawn from consideration.

In Paragraph No. 3 of the Action, claims 1 and 3-7 are objected to for alleged informalities.

As noted above, claims 1 and 3-7 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the informalities are believed to be overcome.

In Paragraph No. 5 of the Action, claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ying et al (U.S. Patent 6,028,025).

Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn because Ying et al '025 does not disclose or suggest a porous ceramic material produced by the process as recited in present claim 1, as amended. As seen above, claim 1 as amended recites that the porous ceramic material is produced by a process comprising the steps of: (1) immersing a fibrous matrix in an aqueous solution containing a metal source, a surfactant and urea, and heating the aqueous solution so as to deposit a metallic compound on the outer surface of the fibrous matrix; and (2) eliminating the fibrous matrix from the resulting fibrous matrix bearing the deposited metallic compound on the outer surface thereof (e.g., by firing). As recited in claim 1, the resulting porous ceramic material has mesopores having a diameter of 2 to 50 nanometers on the surface thereof and is fibrous in nature.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/801,639

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection based on Ying et al '025 are respectfully requested.

In Paragraph No. 7 of the Action, claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by McGrath et al (U.S. Patent 6,638,885).

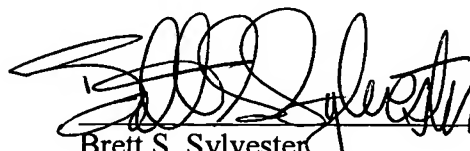
Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn because McGrath '885, like Ying et al '025, does not disclose or render obvious a porous ceramic material made by the process recited in present claim 1, as amended.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(e) rejection of claims 1-5 and 7 based on McGrath '885 are respectfully requested.

Allowance is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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